

Amendments to the specification

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 9, line 4 with:

A1
A preferred embodiment of a system in accordance with the present invention is preferably practiced in the context of a personal computer such as an IBMTM compatible personal computer, Apple MacintoshTM computer or UNIXTM based workstation. A representative hardware environment is depicted in Figure 1, which illustrates a typical hardware configuration of a workstation in accordance with a preferred embodiment having a central processing unit 110, such as a microprocessor, and a number of other units interconnected via a system bus 112.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 9, line 21 with:

A2
The workstation typically has resident thereon an operating system such as the Microsoft Windows NTTM or Windows/95TM Operating System (OS), the IBM OS/2TM operating system, the MAC OSTM, or UNIXTM operating system. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the present invention may also be implemented on platforms and operating systems other than those mentioned. A preferred embodiment is written using JAVA, C, and the C++ language and utilizes object oriented programming methodology. A relational database system is utilized in a preferred embodiment, but one of ordinary skill in the art will readily comprehend that other database systems can be substituted without departing from the claimed invention.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 21, line 24 with:

A3
Sun's Java language has emerged as an industry-recognized language for "programming the Internet." Sun defines Java as: "a simple, object-oriented, distributed, interpreted, robust, secure, architecture-neutral, portable, high-performance, multithreaded, dynamic, buzzword-compliant, general-purpose programming language. Java supports

A³ programming for the Internet in the form of platform-independent Java applets." Java applets are small, specialized applications that comply with Sun's Java Application Programming Interface (API) allowing developers to add "interactive content" to Web documents (e.g., simple animations, page adornments, basic games, etc.). Applets execute within a Java-compatible browser (e.g., Netscape Navigator™ browser) by copying code from the server to client. From a language standpoint, Java's core feature set is based on C++. Sun's Java literature states that Java is basically, "C++ with extensions from Objective C for more dynamic method resolution. "

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 22, line 7 with:

A⁴ Figure 8 illustrates a method 800 for managing information transmitted utilizing a network. Initially, in operation 802, a first message is directed to a recipient utilizing a network. Such electronic message includes content. Next, in operation 804, the first message is stored in a database. Thereafter, the first message is transmitted to the[[a]] recipient utilizing the network. See operation 806. In operation 808, a query is received from a user utilizing the network. In response thereto, content is retrieved that satisfies the query from the database, in accordance with operation 810. The retrieved content is subsequently transmitted to the user in a second message utilizing the network. See operation 812.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 24 line 11 with:

A⁵ Alice sends email using her normal email program to Robert. The only difference is that she uses her "nickname address" for Robert, "Bob," that she set up with ThinkDoc. By doing this, she invokes the tracker application on the particular message she sends. The email will be transported via ThinkDoc and ThinkDoc will take note of the message. Robert then receives the email at his "actual address" as he normally would, with no easily noticeable differences. (If Bob is a sophisticated user and deeply interested, he could discover that Alice is using the ThinkDoc application.)

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 28, line 22 with:

A6
Application developers can use standard Web application development tools to develop the web channel. Complicating this, however, is that the web channel and the email channel must be "synchronized" from a user's viewpoint. For example, if the user sends email that passes through [[the]]some ThinkDoc application, that user will expect to see that message as part of any status report that he or she receives via the Web from that ThinkDoc application.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 32, line 22 with:

A7
There is a simple implementation of the MsgDescriptor interface in the class `com.thinkdoc.app.DescriptorBase`. This class understands that frequently messages have a particular form: `prefix-data@host.ourdomain` where `prefix`, `host`, and `ourdomain` are fixed for the life of the application. An example used in accordance with the performance appraisal process automation application (described above) might be `activity-request-6fzly2@pa.thinkdoc.com` where the prefix is "activity-request," the host is "pa," and the domain is "thinkdoc.com."